

This year's theme, "A Proud Past \* \* \* A Powerful Tomorrow," is certainly appropriate. As Latinas, we are at a crossroads. Today, we are prouder than ever to be rooted in our cultural traditions. At the same time, we are breaking the glass ceiling and pioneering into areas our mothers never would have dreamed possible. Latinas own major businesses, serve as executives in our Nation's largest corporations, and are being elected to public office in increasing numbers throughout all levels of government. As our accomplishments grow, we continue to fulfill our role as the nurturers and educators of our children.

I am extremely optimistic about our future. In 25 years, it is estimated that Latinos will become the majority population group in California. Our new role tomorrow demands that Latinas continue to tackle new challenges and responsibilities today. HOPE will play a crucial role in preparing Latinas to lead California into the future.

I salute the HOPE Education and Leadership Fund for their commitment to Latinas and our children and, in their honor, proclaim March 8, 1996, as Latina History Day.

#### TRIBUTE TO DANIEL WILLIAMS

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 1996*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues one of the tireless soldiers in the army of justice and equality—Daniel Williams.

Danny, as he is affectionately known, was honored by the Giblin Association on Sunday, February 18, 1996. Tribute was paid to him for his dedication to a number of communities—labor, civic, and social. Over the years, Danny has taken his place amongst a variety of individuals to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to live, learn, and succeed.

Most of his work has been done in conjunction with the labor movement. A strong labor activist, Danny has used his experience and opportunities to draw attention to matters that affect the very fiber of our community. He is active with the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 68-68A-68B. He serves this organization as director of community relations. He uses this position to interact with the national organizations of the NAACP, the Urban League, the A. Philip Randolph Institute, as well as other civil rights organizations.

Danny is also active in his local community. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Vailsburg Block Association and the Reynolds Place Block Association. He is a district leader representing the 36th district of Newark's west ward for the Essex County Democratic Committee. Always willing to serve, he is the sergeant-at-arms for the executive board of the Essex County Democratic Committee.

I am proud to have this dedicated citizen in my district. I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Danny and his wife, Bernice.

#### A BILL TO AMEND THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 1996*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am cosponsoring a bill introduced by Mr. NORWOOD and Mr. CLAY, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow five historically black graduate professional schools to remain eligible for grant funding under section 326 of title III of that act.

These institutions compete for grant funds made available through the appropriations process. The Secretary of Education selects recipients who are making a substantial contribution to the legal, medical, dental, veterinary or other graduate opportunity for African Americans. The five original institutions, including Morehouse School of Medicine, Meharry Medical College, Clark-Atlanta University, Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School, and Tuskegee University School of Medicine will become ineligible for grant funding after the next appropriations cycle. Although these institutions may still need grant funds and may be making the substantial contribution required under the statute, they will be ineligible simply due to the fact that they have received two 5-year grants.

This bill simply allows these institutions to continue to compete for funds along with other eligible institutions. Rather than terminating their eligibility solely due to timing, the decision will be based on meeting the requirements of the Secretary in determining substantial contributions to the fields outlined above.

The schools which compete for funds under section 326 of title III train 50 percent of the African American physicians, pharmacists and dentists in this country, as well as, 75 percent of African American veterinarians. Many of the medical schools serve large numbers of disadvantaged individuals who have no health insurance and are in dire need of quality health care. In light of the current health care problems facing this country, I believe that Congress should continue to support the important role of historically black graduate professional schools in helping to address this key issue.

#### TRIBUTE TO GWEN TOWNS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 1996*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Gwen Towns attended college in her home State of North Carolina where she received a bachelor of science in early childhood education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Later, she earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Brooklyn College, and obtained post master credits from Pace University.

As an advocate for quality education for children and adults, she has taught in New York for several organizations, including the Women's House of Detention and the board of education. In addition, Mrs. Towns has served as a member of various national and local education committees.

Mrs. Towns has been recognized on numerous occasions for her commitment and leadership on issues related to education and her efforts as a community activist. Also, she serves on the board of directors for the Brooklyn Children's Museum, St. Joseph's Home for Children, and president of the Interfaith Medical Auxiliary. She is a member of the NYC chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Concerned Women of Brooklyn, and an active member of Berean Missionary Baptist Church.

Most importantly, she and Congressman Ed Towns are the proud parents of two children, Assemblyman Darryl Towns and Deidra Towns, and the grandparents of Kiara Towns and Jasmine Towns.

#### IN HONOR OF MAYOR DENNIS P. COLLINS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 1996*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very distinguished and outstanding citizen from my district. Dennis P. Collins, former mayor of Bayonne, has long understood the importance of community development and service. In recognition of his altruistic efforts, Mayor Collins will be honored by the Bayonne Family YMCA on March 10, 1996, at the 4th Annual Distinguished Service Award Brunch at the Hi-Hat Restaurant in Bayonne.

Tradition and experience are key words when speaking of this truly dedicated citizen. Mayor Collins has been a life-long resident of the city of Bayonne. After proudly serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, he returned to complete his post-secondary education at St. Peter's College and the State University of New Jersey. His educational accomplishments allowed him to further develop his career in various arenas.

Mayor Collins' successful political career began in 1962 when he was elected the first ward councilman. Four years later, he was elected councilman at large. His leadership, influence, and commitment to the community led the residents of Bayonne to elect him mayor in 1974. As a result of his work and dedication, Mayor Collins was reelected to three terms.

Bayonne and its citizens benefited from the hard work and dedication of Mayor Collins. As mayor, he developed a strong economic policy at a time when the country and State were in recession. He dramatically improved public services and was directly involved in the process of refurbishing many of the city's public parks and facilities.

In his community, Mayor Collins has also played an active role and dedicated many hours of service to various institutions. He has taken part in veterans group activities and is a faithful parishioner at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish. He has had the pleasure of working with the Knights of Columbus and was a standard bearer of the New Frontier Democrats.

Mayor Collins has worked endlessly to promote a sense of community in Bayonne, and he serves as a role model for our public officials. I am proud to have him as a congressional staff member, and it is with great pleasure that I honor such a special constituent and leader.